



Preparedness for the health consequences of climate change as a potential influence on public health law and policy

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Abstract:

Because the health effects of climate change are likely to be significant and far-reaching, a key component of our ability to adapt will be our public health infrastructure. Perhaps counter-intuitively, recent emphasis in public health law on preparedness for extraordinary events may be to the detriment of our ability to cope with the health impacts of climate change. While existing emergency preparedness law will necessarily be an important backdrop for health-focused climate change adaptation efforts (especially with regard to natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks), the focus on “emergency” preparedness in recent years does not necessarily situate us well for handling the substantial, but slowly emerging, intensification of more routine health threats that we expect to see as an impact of climate change. This paper examines the likely demands of climate change on public health infrastructure, law, and policy and evaluates weaknesses of the current public health legal framework.

Source: http://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/fwps_papers/120/

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

United States

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact, Infectious Disease, Respiratory Effect

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Infectious Disease: General Infectious Disease, Vectorborne Disease

Vectorborne Disease: Mosquito-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: West Nile Virus

Respiratory Effect: Asthma

Medical Community Engagement: 

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Resource Type: 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion

Timescale: 

time period studied

Historical